

Message Text

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FOR ASST SECRETARY ENDERS

FOL REPEAT HALIFAX 00380 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

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TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN
HALIFAX

REF: HALIFAX TEL 378

1. FOLLOWING UPON HIS SPEECH IN HALIFAX LAST NIGHT
PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE
ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 14 IN WHICH HE CONTINUED
TO TALK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT S ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM.

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WM MAIN POINT OF INTEREST FOR MARITIMERS WAS THE PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS FOR ANY NEW MASSIVE SPENDING IN ANY PART OF CANADA. HE SAID THAT ANY NEW EXPENDITURE WOULD HAVE TO BE THE RESULT OF CUTBACKS IN EXISTING PROGRAMS OR CHANGES IN SPENDING PRIORITIES. HE MADE IT CLEAR HOWEVER THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO CUT EXISTING BUDGET SPENDING IN ATLANTIC CANADA.

E3. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY MASSIVE NEW INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAPE BRETON STEEL INDUSTRY--AN INDUSTRY WHICH THE NOVA SCOTIA LIBERAL PARTY WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATLY EXPANDED WHETHER BY GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE FUNDS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY MAJOR FINANCING OF A BAY OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT.

4. ANOTHER MAJOR POINT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND ONE WHICH HE ALLUDED TO IN HIS SPEECH LAST NIGHT WAS THAT THE ANTI-INFLATIONARY PROGRAM "IS NOT MEANT TO SOLVE REGIONAL DISPARITY" OR ANY OTHER DISPARITIES EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY. THE PROGRAM IS MEANT SOLELY TO "CONTROL THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL". "IF WE TRY TO MAKE IT DO TOO MANY THINGS, IT WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING". HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO USE OTHER TECHNIQUES IN OVERCOMING REGIONAL DISPARITIES. (THIS LINE OF REASONING WILL BE UNWELCOME NEWS TO MARITIMERS SINCE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE SPONSOR OF THE TRUDEAU SPEECH YESTERDAY, THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES ECONOMIC COUNCIL, HAVE COME OUT STRONGLY URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES HAVE LAGGED FAR BEHIND THE REST OF CANADA ECONOMICALLY AND NEED MORE CONSIDERATE TREATMENT IN AN ANTI-INFLATIONARY PROGRAM THAN CENTRAL CANADA AND OTHER WEALTHIER AND PROSPEROUS PARTS OF CANADA.)

5. MR TRUDEAU SAID THAT WHILE LABOR OBJECTS TO THE ANTI-INFLATIONARY PROGRAM, IT HAS NOT CLOSED THE

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DOOR ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT LABOR LEADERS WILL BE CONVERTED TO CONTROLS.

6. SO FAR NO MENTION OF THE POSTAL STRIKE AND THE POSTAL WORKERS' UNION'S RESPONSE TO THE ANTI-INFLATIONARY PROGRAM. IT IS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS AGAIN MEETING THE PRESS

ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 14 TO CONTINUE DEALING
WITH QUESTIONS WHICH WERE NOT RAISED DURING THE
MORNING SESSION.
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